



# Survey finds strong support for floor price on alcohol

**Joanna Delalande**

Most WA adults support the introduction of a minimum price on alcohol to prevent overconsumption, according to findings from Curtin University.

Setting a floor price for alcohol has previously been flagged by the State Government as a way to address alcohol-related illness, injury and death.

The Curtin University survey this week found 78 per cent of people believed more needed to be done to reduce the harm caused by alcohol and 66 per cent were concerned the availability of cheap alcohol was harmful to the community.

City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder chief executive John Walker has previously dismissed the need for a min-

imum floor price for alcohol in the mining town, saying ruling out cheap bottles of wine was likely not required.

He said a minimum floor price had partly been in place in the city since last year, when Woolworths BWS voluntarily stopped stocking two-litre fruity lexia casks or any port under \$20. "It's already difficult to buy cheap port or wine in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, so I don't think that initiative is needed here as much as in other places," he said.

But McCusker Centre for Action on Alcohol and Youth executive officer Julia Stafford said the survey highlighted the extent of support from WA health and community organisations, and the public, for the introduction of a minimum alcohol price to reduce the health and social impacts of

cheap alcohol in WA.

"Minimum pricing would set a floor price per standard drink below which alcohol cannot be sold," she said.

"It would only affect the prices of the cheapest products — those that are favoured by the heaviest drinkers — while having minimal effect on light and moderate drinkers.

"Young people are particularly sensitive to the price of alcohol and evidence shows young, high-risk drinkers' drink choices are influenced by price. A floor price would be expected to have important direct benefits for young people through reduced harm."